

Consultation

Review of Public Health Laboratory (PHL) capacity and capability to support a national response to priority multi-drug resistance organism (MRO) outbreaks and other emerging antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threats

Reference ID: HEALTH/21-22/E21-526105

On behalf of the PHLN Consortium, we invite your feedback and comment as key national AMR stakeholders, on the attached draft best-practice model for national AMR laboratory surveillance to inform public health action. The scope of this project focuses on an optimised **public health laboratory (PHL) or reference AMR laboratory network** within and between jurisdictions that complements existing infrastructure and supports differing jurisdictional capabilities.

This model has been developed as part of the *Review of Public Health Laboratory (PHL) capacity and capability to support a national response to priority multi-drug resistance organism (MRO) outbreaks and other emerging antimicrobial resistance (AMR) threats* project, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

This work is being undertaken by a PHLN Consortium led by the Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, the University of Melbourne, the Institute of Clinical Pathology And Medical Research (ICPMR), NSW Pathology and the Queensland Health Forensic and Scientific Services.

This consultation on the best-practice model is stage one out of five in this project. The five stages of the project are described further below and consultation with relevant key stakeholders will be undertaken at **each stage** of the project.

The five stages of the project are:

- Stage 1: Development of an agreed best practice model for aligned and sustainable, near-real time national AMR laboratory surveillance to support response to priority MRO outbreaks and emerging AMR threats.
- Stage 2: Develop methodologies for (a) collecting comprehensive information on current national laboratory capability and capacity, and (b) assessing current national laboratory capability and capacity against the agreed best practice model.
- Stage 3: Capability and Capacity mapping
- Stage 4: Capability and capacity assessment
- Stage 5: Final analysis, report and recommendations to strengthen and harmonise laboratory capacity and capability

We welcome your feedback by the end of this week **Friday 10 June 2022** for PHLN endorsement the week following. We highlight that there will be opportunity for further input throughout the duration of the project, due to be completed by the end of year.

Feedback and enquires to Tuyet Hoang at tuyet.hoang@unimelb.edu.au.